

REMARKS

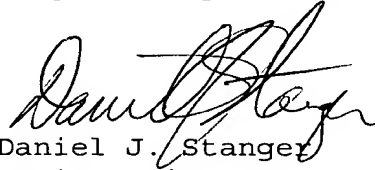
The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-17 and 22-23 are now pending.

Claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tamamura et al., U.S. 5,579,236. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, the Applicants have canceled Claims 18-21 without prejudice, to expedite allowance of Claims 1-17 and 22-23.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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